



# DG MARE current policy developments

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meeting  
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EMFAF

MC

# Context

- **New College of Commissioners for the period 2024-2029**
- **Next Multiannual Financial Framework under preparation**
- **A number of ongoing evaluations**
- **A number of ongoing policy initiatives**

# Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

- Commission to present a **proposal on the next MFF Regulation on 8 July 2025**
- MFF proposal determines the **overall EU budget allocation**
- DG MARE's evaluation work specific to the funding and CFP helps define the **best use of the budget available to the specific policy area of DG MARE in the next funding period**
- The Commission recently published the communication on **'The road to the next MFF'** and launched **a series of public consultations on the MFF 2028-2034** for 12 weeks (until 7 May 2025)

# The Ocean Pact

- **Objective: to ensure coherence across all policy areas linked to the ocean addressing both new issues and existing incoherences.**
- Public call for evidence until 17 February 2025
- European Ocean Days on 3-7 March 2025
- European Maritime Day in Cork on 21-23 May 2025 and the UN Ocean Conference in Nice on 9-13 June 2025

# Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation

- **Evaluation objective:** to provide an evidence-based assessment of whether the CFP Regulation is still fit for purpose or where lessons can be learned for improving
- **In line with Commission's Better Regulation Standards; assessment five key evaluation criteria:** efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence, EU added value
- Public feedback was collected till 6 Sept 2024 on the “Have your say” portal, 87 responses
- **12 weeks public consultation from 27 Jan to 21 Apr 2025** via [e-survey questionnaire](#)
- **Study supporting the evaluation of the Landing Obligation**
- **Final product is the evaluation report – a staff working document** drafted by the Commission

# Other studies and consultations

- **Foresight study “Fishers of the future”**: launched in November 2023, published in February 2025
- **Training and Certification of Fishers across EU coastal Member States**: launched in 2024
- **Management of EU fishing capacity**: initiated in 2024, expected delivery by June 2025
- **Common Market Organisation (CMO) provisions labelling and producer organisations**: launched in October 2024, duration of 10 months (until July 2025)
- **Consultations on social indicators and quota allocation closed**: assessment of responses related to Fishing Opportunities and upcoming engagement with Member States and stakeholders
- **Vision for the fisheries and aquaculture sector with a 2040 perspective**

# EMFF and EMFAF evaluations

- **EMFF ex-post evaluation and EMFAF mid-term evaluation in parallel**
- Supported by **external studies** conducted **over the past year**
- Application of **various methodological tools and approaches**
- **Reach-out to the wider public** (call for evidence, public consultation, surveys, targeted interviews and consultations, validation workshops etc.)
- **Evaluation studies and Commission's Staff Working Documents expected to be published in 2025**

# Updates on Aquaculture Policy (1)

- Continued implementation of the “Strategic Guidelines for EU aquaculture” and EU Algae Initiative
- EU Reference Centre for the Welfare of Aquatic Animals (January 2024)
- Annual Survey for EU Member States
- FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (July 2024)
- Recent publications (May-December 2024):
  - ✓ Regulatory and administrative framework (incl. e-learning module)
  - ✓ Planning for space and water for marine aquaculture (incl. e-learning module)
  - ✓ Access to space and water for freshwater and land-based aquaculture
  - ✓ Adaptation to climate change
  - ✓ Energy transition
  - ✓ Good husbandry practices in aquaculture



# Updates on Aquaculture Policy (2)

- **Other documents in progress:**
  - ✓ Environmental performance;
  - ✓ Code of good practices on fish welfare and fish welfare indicators;
  - ✓ Assessment of environmental benefits of aquaculture and challenges and opportunities in promoting those benefits
  - ✓ Mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines

# Updates on Aquaculture Policy (3)

- **Recent publications on the EU webpage [Media | EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism \(europa.eu\)](#):**
  - ✓ Infographics on shellfish, algae and finfish farming, EMODNet and aquaculture
  - ✓ Video on the “Open Method of Coordination and EU aquaculture policy”
- **Launch of EU-wide campaign on aquaculture:**
  - ✓ Aim: to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of aquaculture among citizens and those who have a say at local level on the development of the sector
  - ✓ Commission will prepare tools that can be used by Member States
  - ✓ Planned kick-off – 25 March 2025

# Nature Restoration Law (1)

- **The Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) was adopted in 2024 and entered into force on 18 Aug 2024.** It requires Member States to put in place effective restoration measures to cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and for all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.
- **NRR is directly applicable in the Member States and requires them to put restoration measures in place to achieve the objectives and specific targets within the interim deadlines, including in coastal and marine habitats.**
- Each Member State must develop and submit to the Commission a draft **National Restoration Plan (NRP) within two years from the entry into force of the Regulation** (18 August 2026), setting out milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050.
- **Interplay with the CFP:** where the protection of coastal and marine habitats requires that fishing or aquaculture activities are regulated, the CFP applies. The NRL is relevant for fisheries in marine and coastal waters as well as for marine, coastal and inland aquaculture.

# Nature Restoration Law (2)

- Financial support: **current EMFAF programming period remains unaffected.** NRR implementation does not imply an obligation on MS to reprogramme any funding from the CFP, fisheries funding programmes and instruments.
- As required by the NRR, the COM in consultation with MS, will analyse the financial needs and funding opportunities for the implementation of the NRR, in view of publishing the report within 12 months from the NRR entry into force. This work is ongoing.
- **Close collaboration within (and between) the national, regional and local administrations and relevant stakeholders (and with other MSs for transboundary areas)** is required for the preparation and implementation of the NRPs.

# Thank you!